

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to define the invention with somewhat greater particularity over the art. The cutout 31 is now defined as "throughgoing" and the claims clearly state that the tip 27 in the inner position extends "through the cutout (31) and past the web (15)." Thus these claims describe a structure that provides for excellent bracing of the outer leg when it is pushed in.

In US patent 5,746,626 of Kwiat there is nothing resembling the cutout 31. Thus this reference alone cannot be used to reject the claims.

Previously cited US patent 5,980,323 of Bricaud shows a vaguely similar structure having a web 40 formed with a hole 80 that serves "to increase bending resilience" (column 5, line 14) of the system. This hole 80 can also "receive the free end at (sic) the nose 32 when the contact is fully depressed" (column 5, lines 16 & 17).

Since the part 46A (FIG. 6 of Bricaud) sits flatly on a surface of the plastic holder 12 of the contact, it is impossible

for the tip 32 to pass "through" the cutout 80. Thus there will be no or only very limited transverse bracing of the contact.

Bricaud therefore describes a different structure, one where the contact tip cannot pass "through" and "past" the web. In addition Bricaud clearly provides structure that prevents this passing-through, so it would not be obvious to modify Bricaud to make it possible for the tip 32 to pass through the hole 80 and past the web 46. Thus a §103 rejection on Bricaud is impossible.

Since no cutout is shown at all in Kwiat, a §103 rejection on the combination of Kwiat and Bricaud is similarly out of the question.

For these reasons the claims in the case are clearly in condition for allowance and the case is ready for passage to issue. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this

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case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosure:                      None.